THE LYMPHATICS OF THE FEMALE GENITAL ORGANS—Dr. Günther Reiffenstuhl, First Head Physician, University Clinic, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Graz, Austria. Translated by Leslie D. Ekvall, Jr., M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Anchorage Medical and Surgical Clinic, Anchorage, Alaska. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and Montreal, 1964. 165 pages, $10.00.

The problem of lymph nodes in genital carcinoma has become more important during recent years. The successful surgical removal of lymph nodes requires, above all, a thorough knowledge of the exact anatomic situation. Most descriptions of the lymphatic system in the female pelvis in textbooks of anatomy are based on studies published at the turn of the century. This very complete monograph reviews these early studies and more recent surgical studies. Of major importance, however, is the report of the findings of an anatomical study of the lymphatic channels, areas of drainage, number and location of the lymph nodes in 28 newborn female cadavers. The results of the study, which was carried out over six years, were published in German in 1957 and are now made available in an English translation.

The lymphatic channels leading from the vulva, vagina, uterus and adnexa and the lymph nodes along these channels are carefully described and clearly demonstrated in 70 illustrations. The clinical importance of these node groups as sites of metastases and recurrence of cervical carcinoma is discussed. The author points out that even the radical pelvic lymphadenectomy now proposed for the treatment of cervical carcinoma is incomplete since several regional node groups, especially those in the area of the inferior gluteal artery, are not removed.

Since the major interest in the radiologic demonstration of the pelvic lymph channels and node groups came after the original publication of this book no mention of the techniques or application of lymphangiography is made. However, the book will undoubtedly remain a standard reference for those interested in the interpretation of lymphangiograms as well as for those interested in the surgical treatment of gynecological cancer.

EMMET J. LAMB, M.D.

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MICRO-ANALYSIS IN MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY (Originally written by Earl J. King, M.A., M.D., D.SC., F.R.I.C.—**Fourth Edition**—I.D.P. Wootton, Ph.D. (Lond.), M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Camb.), F.R.I.C., M.C.Path., Professor of Chemical Pathology in the University of London at the Postgraduate Medical School. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York, 1964. 254 pages, $5.50.

As indicated in the Preface, this book is intended to represent the routine laboratory practice of chemical pathology at the Postgraduate Medical School in the University of London. As such it is a useful reference for laboratories concerned with biochemical analyses required in clinical medicine. The use of the term "micro" in the title is apparently meant to indicate that the methods selected require minimal amounts of sample. It is not a collection of methods which are "micro" in the sense that other than routine chemical competence and equipment are required to carry them out. Directions are specific and clear and the methods selected are those generally accepted as reliable for the purpose intended.

The book includes some general and useful information on laboratory accuracy and on the principles of colorimetry, spectrophotometry and spectroscopy as well as on pH and buffers and on the preparation of volumetric solutions. A considerable amount of rewriting of the former third edition has been necsssitated by the advances and consequent changes in emphasis in the field of clinical chemistry. This is evidenced by the inclusion in the current edition of chapters on automated analyses and expanded treatment of assays for enzyme activities in the serum. There is also a short section on the use of chromatographic methods for identification in the urine of reducing sugars, amino acids, 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5 HIAA) and vanillylmandelic acid (VMA). 5 HIAA is a metabolite of serotonin occurring in the urine of patients with carcinoid syndrome. VMA is the major metabolite of adrenalin and nonadrenaline found in the urine. Tests for VMA are therefore useful in the laboratory diagnosis of active pheochromocytoma. These latter tests are cited as evidence that the book contains not only methods for all of the frequently used tests but also, in addition, it includes tests for several others which while not so frequently called for are nonetheless readily done in an average laboratory when required.

This new edition of "Micro-analysis in Medical Biochemistry" is recommended as a reference work in the clinical laboratory.

HAROLD A. HARPER, Ph.D.

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BLOOD COAGULATION, HEMORRHAGE AND THROMBOSIS—Methods of Study—Leandro M. Tocantins, M.D., and Louis A. Kazal, Ph.D. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York and London, 1964. 532 pages, $17.50.

This volume is a greatly expanded and revised version of "The Coagulation of Blood, Methods of Study" issued in 1955, and represents a "second generation" text rather than a second edition. Many distinguished contributors discuss a particular area of blood coagulation, hemostatis, fibrinolysis or thrombosis with emphasis on methodology rather than theory or clinical diagnosis. In fact there is heavy emphasis on research methods, although the usual clinically applied tests are covered. To the editors' credit they have often included more than one method for the evaluation of a particular clotting factor. This is an important consideration in a controversial and rapidly expanding field.

There is, however, uneven coverage. Too little emphasis has been given to hemostatic events, especially the bleeding time and platelet aggregation, areas of intense interest in recent years. Particularly, there is no discussion of adenosine diphosphate and its possible role in hemostasis and thrombosis. Only one method—a partially discredited one at that—is given for the detection of platelet antibodies and there seems to be too much emphasis and repitition in the area of fibrinolysis. Finally, the two fine articles on detection of clinical thromboembolic disease seem out of place in this volume.

However, these criticisms are minor. While this volume is not intended for the practicing physician, it is a must for investigators, for anyone charged with physician or technician training in this area and for those working in clinical laboratories.

D. P. COONEY, M.D.

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PHYSIOLOGY OF THE EYE—Clinical Application—4th Edition—Francis Heed Adler, M.A., M.D., F.A.C.S., William F. Norris and George E. de Schweinitz, Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, 63103, 1965. 889 pages, 437 illustrations, 2 in color, $18.75.

The author is a master teacher who has assimilated in one volume the pertinent updated things one needs to know about this subject.

Although the book was written primarily for students, the well-seasoned ophthalmologist or visual physiologist will be able to update his blind spots in retinal physiology, fluid dynamics, ocular motility, the vascular system and corneal physiology. This is a very readable compendium of knowledge in this subject that the practicing ophthalmologist will find most helpful in relating clinical management problems to basic physiologic principles.

ARTHUR JAMPOLSKY, M.D.